

GIACOMANTONIO, ARACIMASS

DRAWING 23

71.2009.085.03029

Scalptor-  
(Staffueher)




# Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Archimedes  
Giacomantonio  
Statuettes

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
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<http://archive.org/details/statuglinc>



To Dr. Louis A. Warren in remembrance of your visit to my studio. Sincerely Archibald A. Givens

"The Railsplitter"  
- 1925

Lincoln High School  
Jersey City N. J.

DE WITT (WALK)  
227 WEST THIRTEENTH STREET

Archimedes A. Giacomantonio Sculptor 288 Sherman Av. Jersey City



## Boy Sculptor, Once Praised by Caruso, Makes Statue of Lincoln and Sells It to School

by Times 2-7-26

An unusual statue of Abraham Lincoln, showing him as the young rail-splitter, was completed last week by Archimedes Giacomantonio, a 19-year-old sculptor who lives at 514 Jersey Avenue, Jersey City. It has just been purchased by the Senior Class of the Lincoln High School, Jersey City, and will soon be placed near the main entrance of the school building.

The statue is the fulfillment of a boy's ardent dream—a dream of walking in the path of Saint Gaudens and Daniel Chester French and Barnard and the other sculptors of the great Emancipator. Less than seven years ago the boy was singing in the children's chorus at the Metropolitan Opera House, with an unsuspected talent for sculpture and plastic art.

It was at the height of Caruso's fame at the opera house and, naturally, the youngster looked up to him as to an idol. Shortly before Caruso left the opera company, young Archimedes walked up to him, a little timidly, and presented to him a tiny statuette of himself, carved out of a cake of soap. The likeness was so realistic that Caruso was amazed, and offered to finance the boy's path through art school if he was willing to continue his sculpture.

The offer was never accepted, because Caruso died within a few months; but young Archimedes enrolled in the Leonardo da Vinci Art School, and brought his talents to the attention of Onorio Ruotolo, the Italian sculptor.

Last year the Faculty of the school announced a prize for the best head of Lincoln to be modeled by one of the students. Archimedes set to work, somewhat in the scientific spirit of his namesake of ancient Syracuse. He read about Lincoln, he saw all the pictures and statues and sketches available. He says he even dreamed of his statue at night, thinking of its composition and of its proportions.

The result, remarkable as a likeness and as an original conception, is displayed in Mr. Ruotolo's studio on the top floor at 11 East Fourteenth Street. It shows Lincoln as a young man, seated on a log. His axe is buried in the wood and, instead of splitting rails, Lincoln is shown reading a book, open in his lap. He is studying it intently and earnestly. The large hands, the large feet in boots, the shaggy brows and deep-set eyes, the spiritual expression of the Emancipator's face are faithfully portrayed, with insight rare among more experienced artists.







**A BOY SAINT GAUDENS**—The dream of walking in the path of Saint Gaudens and Daniel Chester French and Barnard and other great sculptors of the great emancipator, 19-year-old Archimedes Giacomantonio of Jersey City, New Jersey, has modeled this statue of Lincoln as a rail splitter at his New York studio. A Jersey City high school has already bought the boy sculptor's creation.—P. & A. Photo.





A NEW JERSEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, Archimedes  
Giacomantonio, recently completed this statue of Lincoln,  
acclaimed by critics  
to be an excellent  
bit of sculpture.  
*International.*



Dickinson High School  
Jersey City, N. J.  
Sept 11, 1930.

Dear Madam,

Am in receipt of your  
Letter anent Archimedes  
Giacomantonio. It is  
taking up a bit of my  
time and I shall com-  
municate with you as  
soon as I can run down  
the desired information.  
In the meantime, these  
lines to let you know  
I am working on the matter

Sincerely,

*Jane Kelly*  
Jane Kelly,  
Librarian.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Miss Ethel Henneford,  
Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.



ARCHIMEDES GIACOMANTONIO  
SCULPTOR

VIA DEL VANTAGGIO  
1<sup>a</sup>

ROMA

NEW YORK



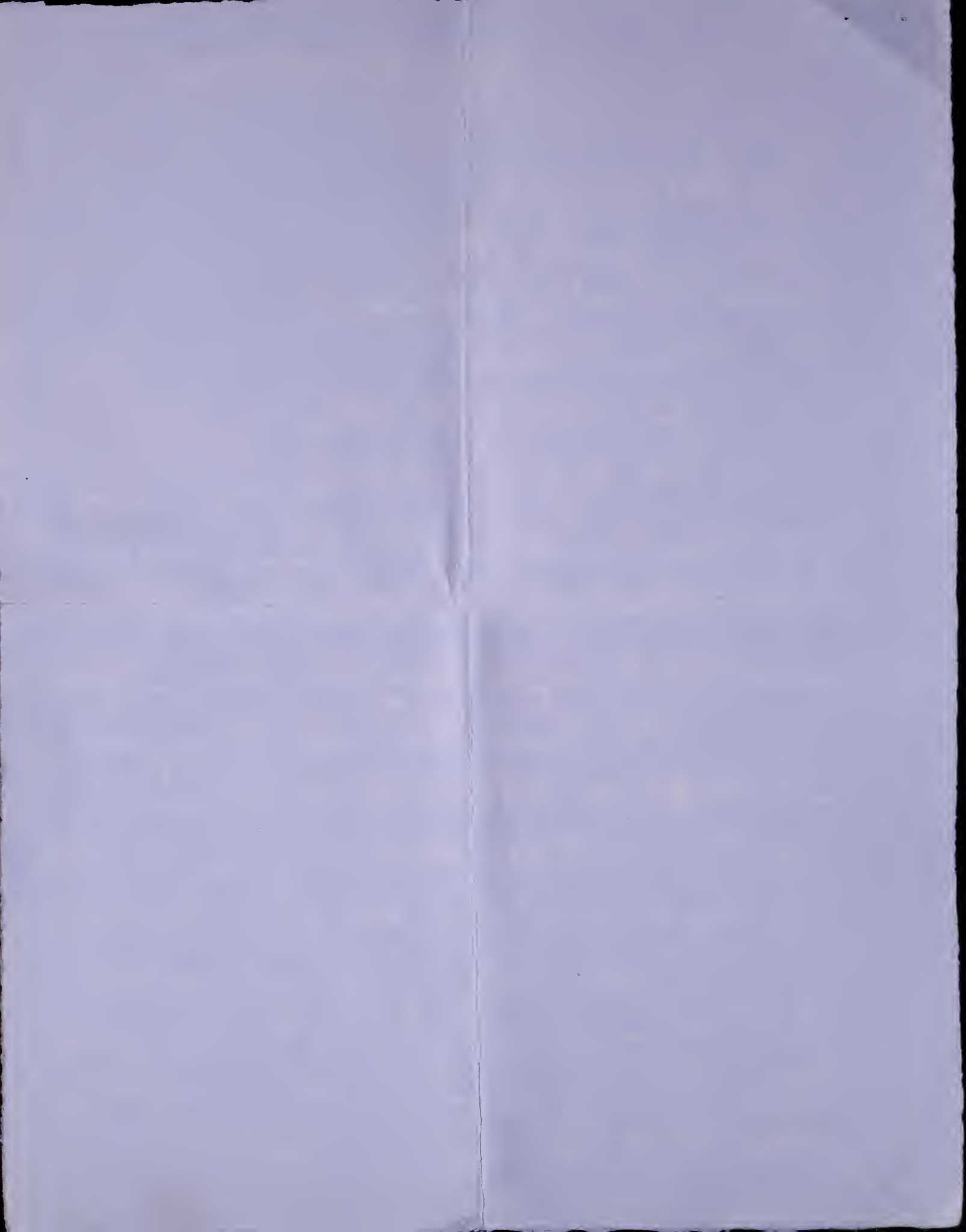
Rome Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 1930

Miss Ethel Henneford  
Assistant Director of the  
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> of July to the  
Jersey City High School asking information  
concerning the statue of the Lincoln executed  
by Archimedes Giacomantonio has just been  
forwarded to me, the sculptor, here in Rome.

"The Railsplitter" is the title of the work  
I modelled in 1926 at the age of nineteen  
was to be erected in heroic size in Jersey City  
but this dream of mine has never been realized!

I am recopying part of the article  
published on the first page of the New York  
Times February seventh, nineteen twenty six.  
which I think may answer your questions.





"An unusual statue of Abraham Lincoln showing him as the young railsplitter, was completed last week by Archimedes Giacomantonio a nineteen year old sculptor who lives at 514 Jersey Av. Jersey City N. J.

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The model of the statue is on exhibition with other more recent work of mine, at my father's home. 514 Jersey Av. Jersey City N. J. I am enclosing a few newspaper clippings on other work of mine. and will mail



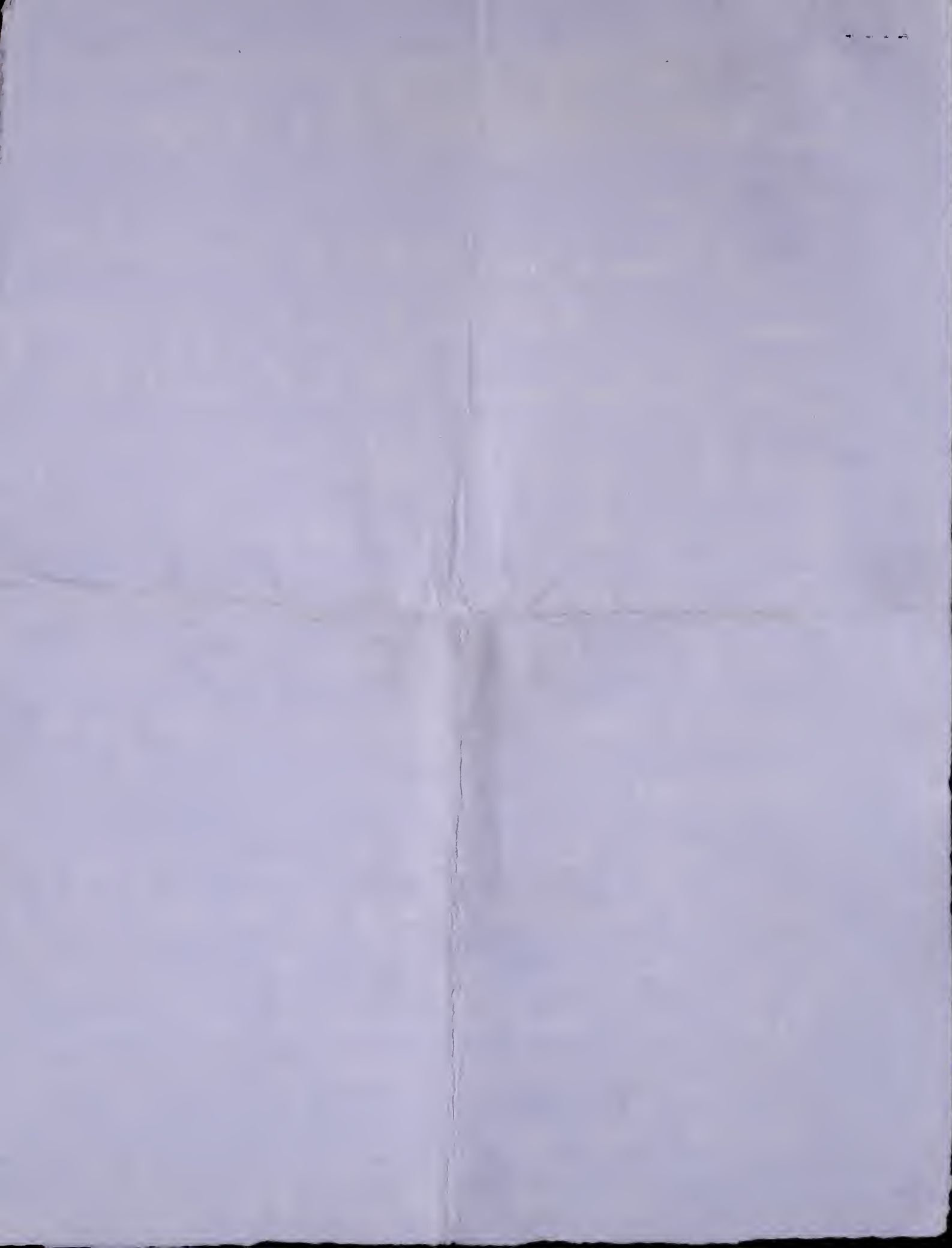


you in a few days a magazine which carries  
and article on ~~some~~<sup>of my</sup> recent work. Perhaps it may  
interest you?

Is there a competition for the Lincoln to  
adorn your Cortile? I would enjoy competing  
in the spiritual sense of it and would be to  
glad to be given the opportunity of creating  
the best Lincoln for Fort Wayne, Indiana.  
Lincoln has been my ideal since childhood.  
and it has been my greatest pain not to  
be able to realize my great desire there past  
five years.

I offer my service to your company  
and will model in bronze or marble free  
of any recompense whatever "The Railsplitter"  
if you will stand the material expenses.  
I will present detailed studies for your approval.  
Are you with me?

sincerely - Archimedes Giacomantonio  
Via del Vantaggio 14 Rome







*Source of Greatness*

A.P.H. No. 5122. Litho in U.S.A.

70 19-1

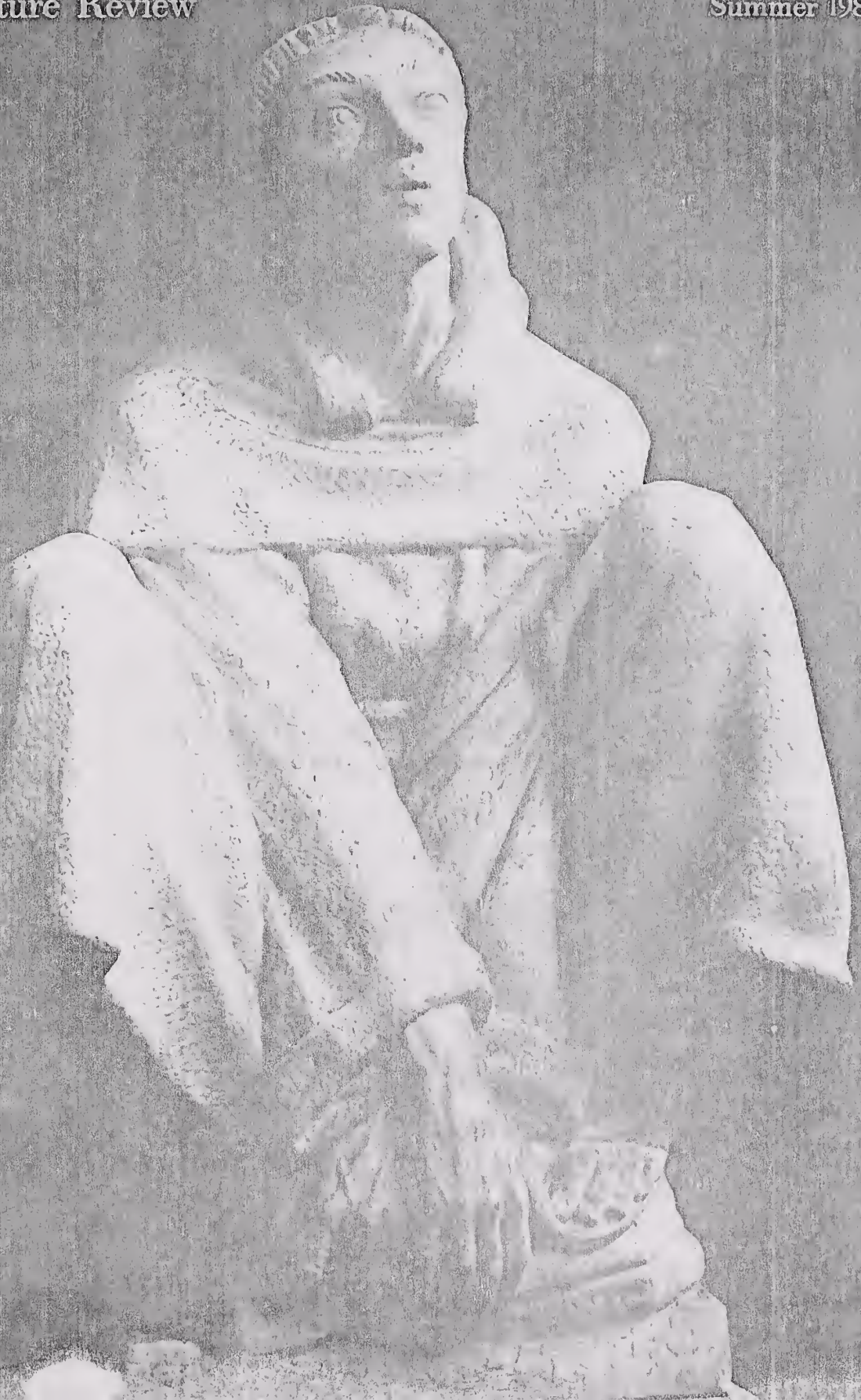




# SCULPTURE

National Sculpture Review

Summer 1981



48th Annual  
Exhibition





## COVER STORY

"Saint Francis," bronze, 26¾" high, by BRUCE MOORE (1905-1980). The work was commissioned by The Friends of Art, Wichita, KS, as a memorial to L. W. Clapp. The only other cast is in Brookgreen Gardens, SC. The sculpture won the Helen Foster Barnett Prize at the National Academy of Design exhibition, 1937. See page 24.

## HIGHLIGHTS

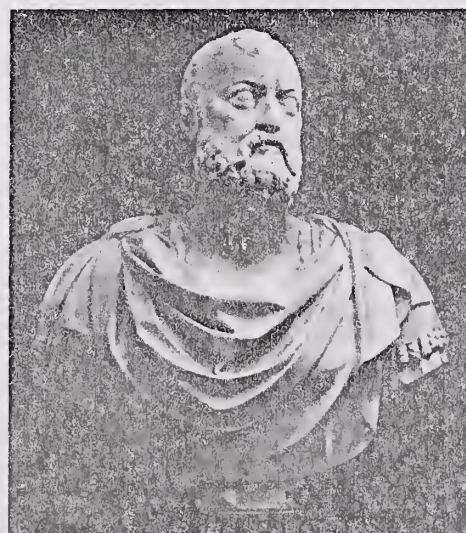
### Rodin Exhibit Largest Ever Held

"Rodin Rediscovered" now through January 31, 1982 at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, is the largest exhibit ever devoted to Auguste Rodin (1840-1917). The 350 examples of sculpture in bronze, plaster, marble, terra cotta, wax and other media and drawings occupy a large part of the Gallery's East Building. Two French Salons from the beginning (1870's) and end (1917) of Rodin's career have been recreated to show the context and evolution of this work. Fifty photographs, fifty drawings and 40 plasters from the Musée Rodin in Paris have never before been exhibited or reproduced. A new casting of Rodin's 21' high bronze portal, "The Gates of Hell" is there, the gift of B. Gerald Cantor, head of the Cantor, Fitzgerald Group, an investment firm.

### Medici Portrait Bust Acquired

A bust of Grand Duke Cosimo I de' Medici (c. 1572) by Florentine master portrait sculptor Giovanni Bandini (1540-1599) has been acquired for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The over-life-size bust is, according to Peter Fusco, Museum Curator of European Sculpture, one of the most important portrait busts in the United States.

In 16th-century Italy, Cosimo I was the greatest collector of the arts in general and the foremost patron of monumental sculpture in particular.



Although life-size busts of him were executed by most of the major sculptors of the period, Cosimo's favorite portraitist was Giovanni Bandini called

Giovanni dell' Opera because of his extensive work for the Opera dell' Duomo (the Cathedral) of Florence. Bandini executed five marble busts of the Grand Duke.

As a student of Michelangelo's hated rival Baccio Bandinelli, Bandini may be viewed as the prime exponent of the classicizing trend in sculpture which evolved alongside the more mannered style of Michelangelo's followers.

### Insurance for Visual Artists

Artists Equity Association announced in May the first all-risk fine art insurance program for visual artists in the United States. The insurance, available to non-members as well as AEA members, will cover the artist's own work while it is in the studio and

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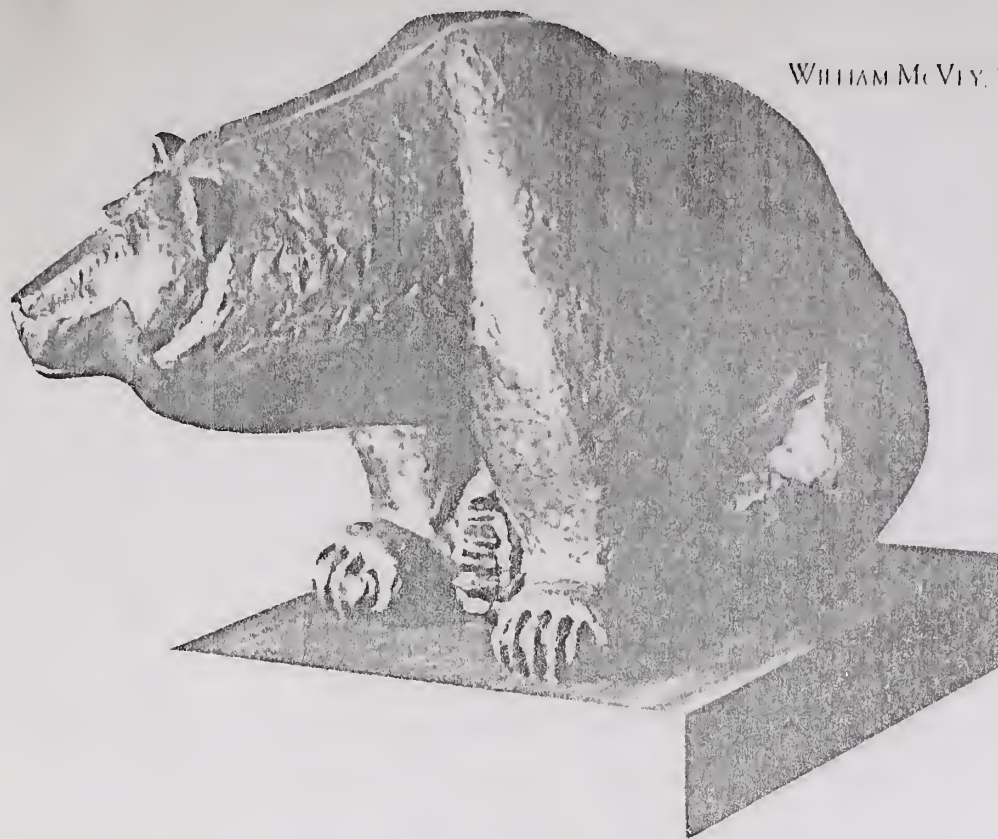
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WILLIAM McVey, "Old Grizzly," bronze, 11" long.

## 48th Annual

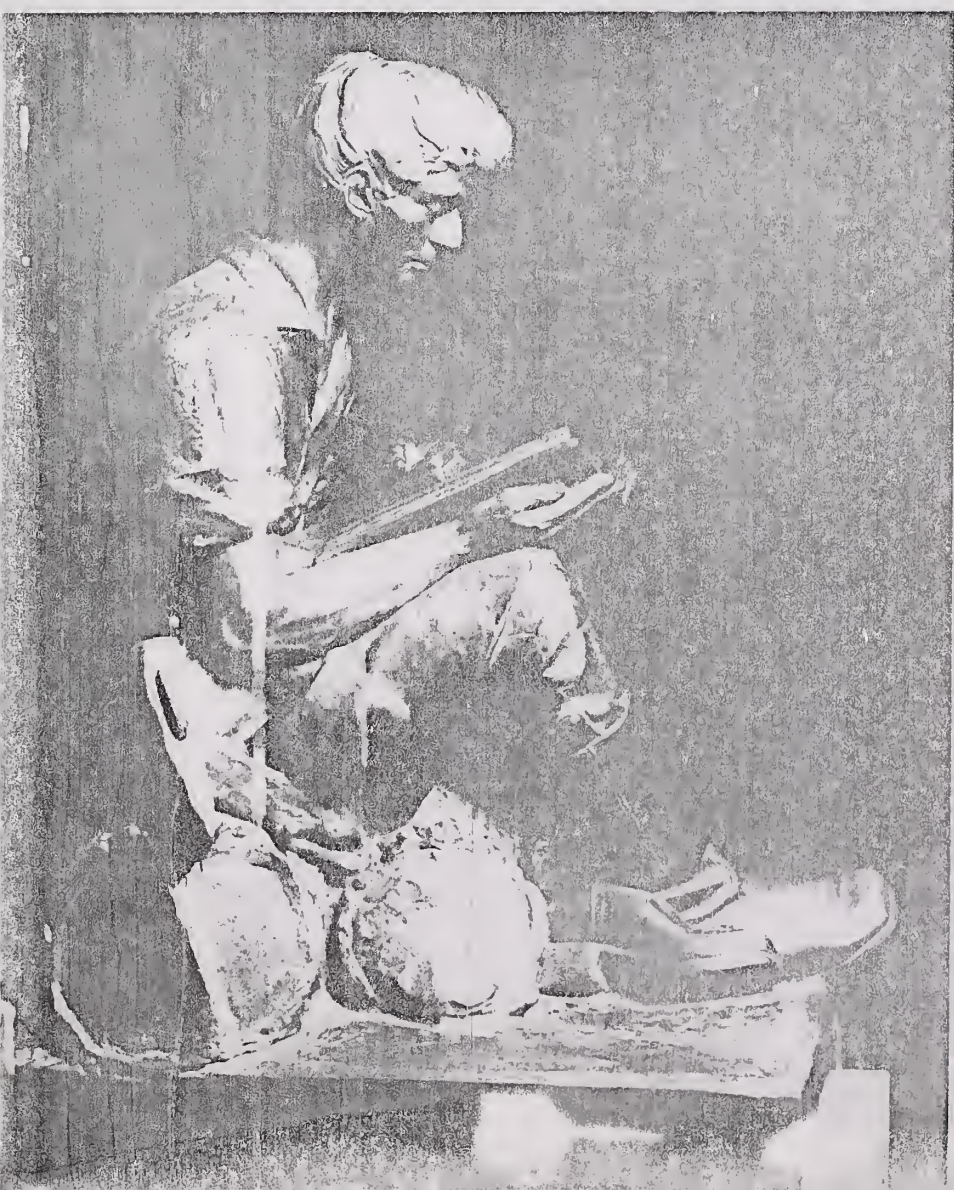
The sculptor determines the number of casts which will be taken from the model he presents to the bronze foundry. Each of these casts is then marked, 1/10, 2/10, 3/10. U.S. Customs Service, as we have noted, allows 10 casts in an edition as original and duty-free. While we advocate such small editions, it is up to the sculptor to decide the number he will have in an edition. No more than that number may be cast from the original model in bronze.

A number of sculptors do not want to select a number for an edition and simply number the casts, i.e. 1, 2, 3, etc. as they are produced. Each of these numbered bronzes is an original, but the sculptor leaves himself subject to a number of problems. It is very easy for a fraudulent cast, or a recast from a bronze to be made. Further, many patrons are unwilling to buy a bronze when they cannot be sure how limited the edition will be. We strongly recommend selecting a number for the edition. d. Unauthorized casts are counterfeit or fraudulent and should be recognized as such by museums, patrons, and the public.

Q. What makes a bronze unique?

A. UNIQUE. The only one, the sole example. In a bronze sculpture, this means that no more than one exists in that medium. In wood, stone, terracotta or other materials—the same indications of *oneness* applies.

An afterword. We have been in recent communication with the office of the Attorney General of New York State. An attempt is being made to draft a law which will prevent the increasing occurrence of unauthorized recasting and other fraudulent practices in the sale of sculpture. National Sculpture



ARCHIMEDES GIACOMANTONIO, "Lincoln—the Railsplitter," 1925, plaster, 26" high.





# ***Bust Done by Sculptor, J. C. Boy, Bought by King***

**Victor Emanuel of Italy Purchases Work—  
Proud Parents of Young Artist  
Live Downtown.**

Archimedes Giacomantonio, whose sculpturing has attracted much attention through the purchase by King Victor Emanuel of Italy of one of the sculptor's pieces, a bust of his grandmother, is perhaps no prouder of his recognition by royalty than his parents, Prof. and Mrs. Gaetano Giacomantonio, who live at 514 Jersey Av., in this city.

King Victor Emanuel first became interested in the young sculptor's work last year at an exhibition in Rome. The 24-year old artist has been studying sculpture in Italy for the past five years. His bust of a young girl, "A Mediterranean Flower," attracted the attention of the king, who complimented Giacomantonio on his work and frequently visited the studio to view the progress made by the latter.

Giacomantonio was born in Jersey City and graduated from Schools 3 and 9 and Dickinson High School. He attended the Leonardo DaVinci Art School, New York, before going to Rome to study at the Royal Academy of Art, from which he was graduated two years ago.

He was the pupil of Vincenze Gemito of Naples, one of the greatest of Italian sculptors, who died last year. A bust of Gemito, executed by pairs once again.

## **YOUNG SCULPTOR**

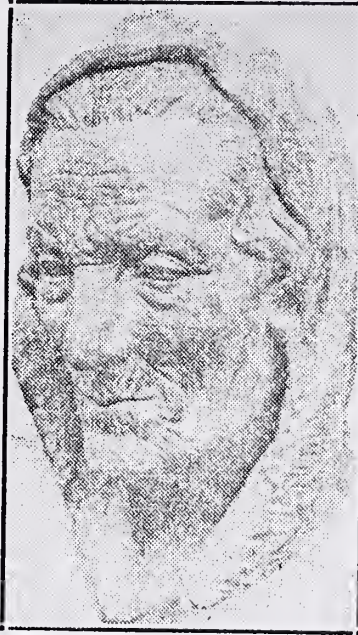
(Continued)

Giacomantonio, is in the Museum of Valle Giulia, Rome.

The original terra cotta of the bronze purchased by the King of Italy is at the home of the sculptor's parents here. The subject is a bust of the sculptor's grandmother, Mrs. Grazia Giacomantonio, 83, who lives in Italy.

Among the works of Giacomantonio which have brought praise from European and American art critics is a bust of Prince George, of Bavaria, now a Catholic bishop in Rome; a bust of S. E. Edmond Rossini, aid of Mussolini, and a member of the latter's cabinet; a bust of Beethoven, now on exhibition in the studio of radio station WEAU, and "The Rail-splitter," a statue of Abraham Lincoln as a young man, which won an award in this country.

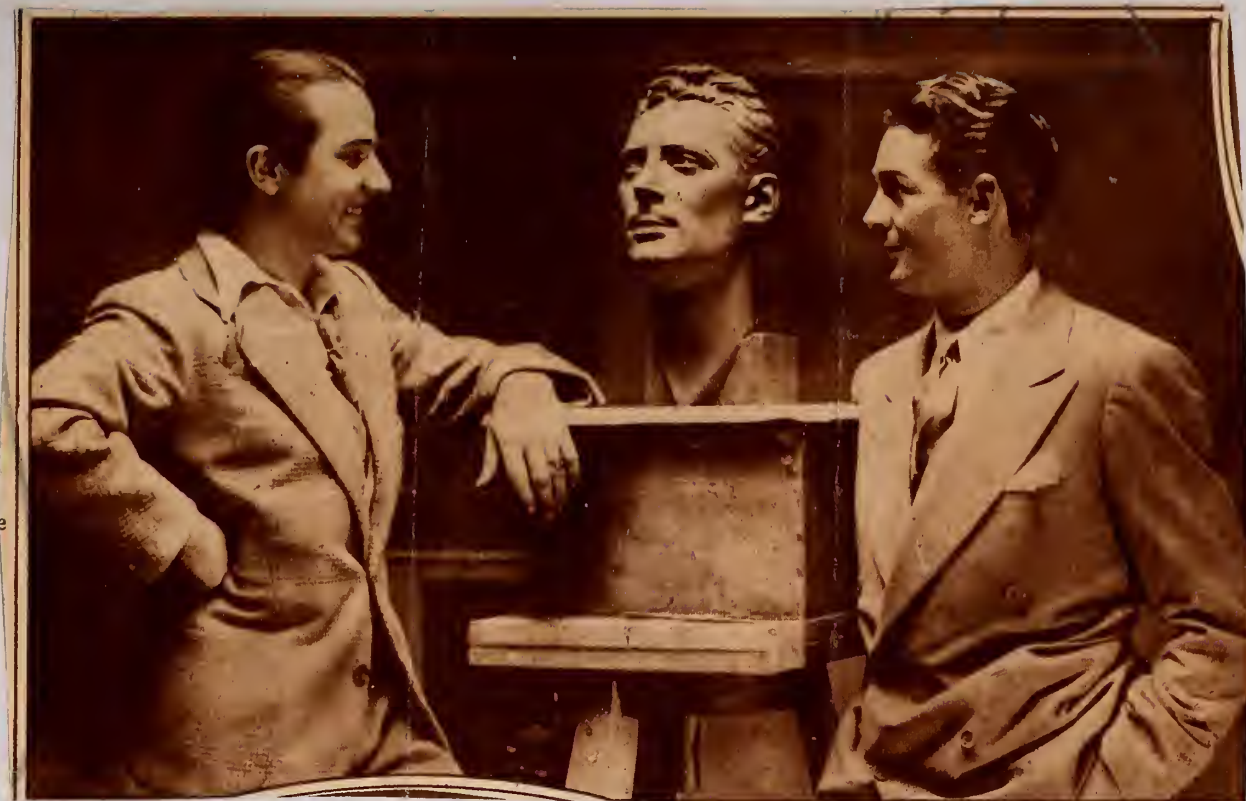
The home of Prof. Giacomantonio has many beautiful pieces of sculpture done by his boy and many more photographs of the youth's other works. The professor has also autographed photos of Caruso and other famous musicians. He is well known for his classical compositions, and is a teacher of music as well as a composer.



The bronze bust "Grandma," purchased Monday by King Victor Emanuel of Italy from the sculptor, Archimedes Giacomantonio, 24, of Jersey City.

1891

1891



PERPETUATED IN MORE DUR-  
ABLE MATERIAL THAN THE  
SHADOWS OF THE SCREEN:

CHARLES FARRELL,  
Film Star (Right), With  
the Bust of Himself by  
Archimedes Giacomantonio,  
Young Jersey  
City Sculptor (Left),  
in His Studio at  
Rome.  
(Loffredi.)





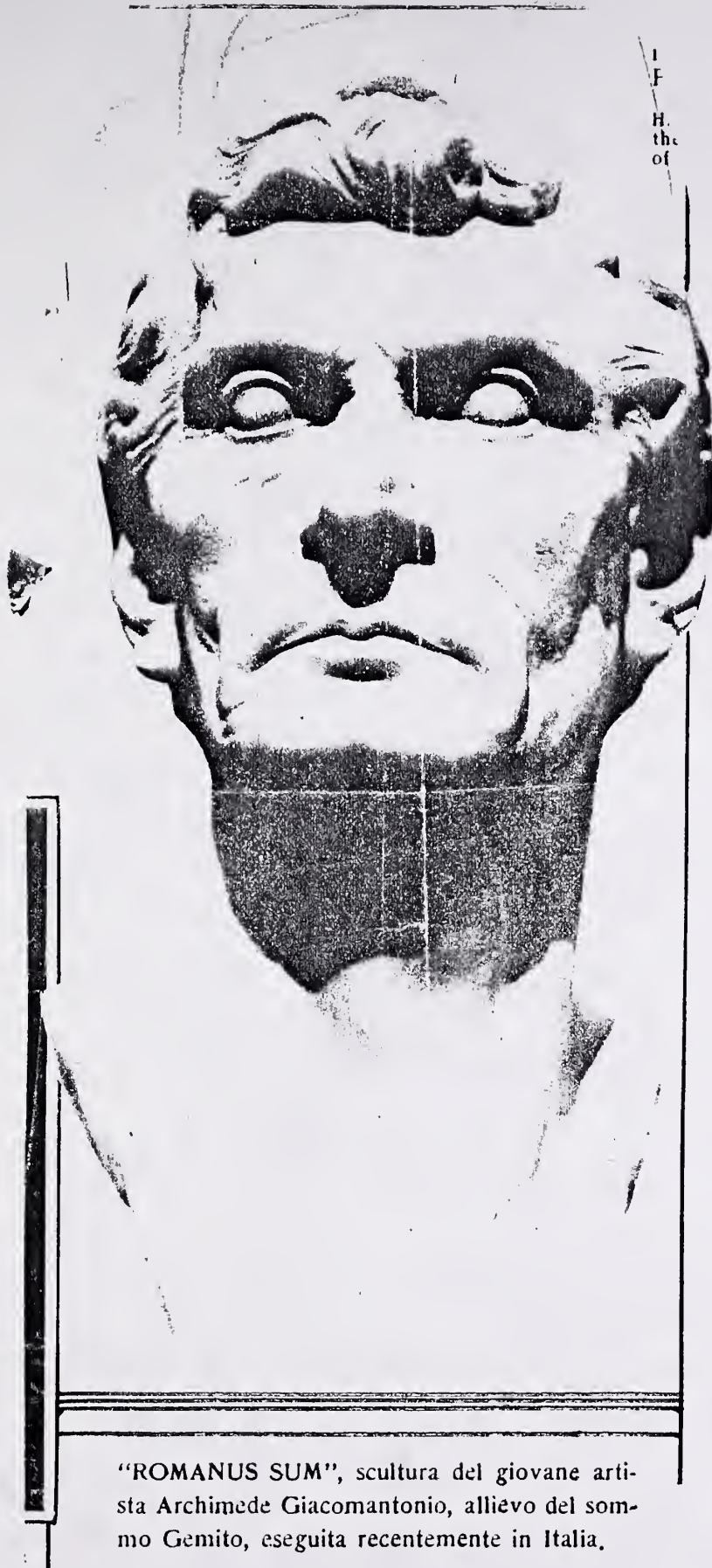
## Honored King



Archimedes Giacomantonio

ROME, (AP)—King Victor Emanuel today bought a cast bronze bust entitled "Grandma," by the American-born sculptor Archimedes Giacomantonio. His address is 514 Jersey Av., Jersey City, N. J.





"ROMANUS SUM", scultura del giovane artista Archimede Giacomantonio, allievo del sommo Gemito, eseguita recentemente in Italia.





GIA COM ANTONIO, AREK M&S DRAWE 23

Sculptors -  
(Statuettes)

